

STATE OF IOWA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
UTILITIES BOARD

IN RE: IOWA TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES, INC., d/b/a IOWA TELECOM	DOCKET NO. RPU-02-4
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**ORDER SCHEDULING CONSUMER COMMENT HEARINGS
AND GRANTING PETITION TO INTERVENE**

(Issued July 5, 2002)

On May 24, 2002, Iowa Telecommunications Services, Inc. (Iowa Telecom), filed with the Utilities Board (Board) proposed increases in its prices for basic monthly services, both residential and business, in all three of its service territories. Iowa Telecom's filing also included a proposal for pricing flexibility in competitive exchanges. The Board subsequently docketed Iowa Telecom's proposal as Docket No. RPU-02-4.

At the time of the filing, Iowa Telecom began notifying its customers of the proposed increases. As a result, some customers have contacted the Board to inquire about the proposal. Based upon the number of customer inquiries, the Board concludes it is appropriate to hold a number of consumer comment hearings to provide an opportunity for members of the general public who are customers of Iowa Telecom to express their views regarding the case before the Board as well as the

general quality of service provided by Iowa Telecom. The Board will schedule six consumer comment hearings to be held at the dates, times, and locations shown:

- Newton - Tuesday, July 23, 2002, at 5 p.m. in the DMACC Newton Conference Center Auditorium, 600 North Second Avenue West, Newton.
- Mt. Pleasant - Thursday, July 25, 2002, at 5 p.m. in the Midwest Old Threshers Theater Museum, 405 East Threshers Road, Mt. Pleasant.
- Emmetsburg - Tuesday, August 6, 2002, at 12 noon in the Iowa Lakes Community College Auditorium, 3200 College Drive, Emmetsburg.
- Logan - Thursday, August 8, 2002, at 5 p.m. in the Logan Community Center, 108 West Fourth Street, Logan.
- Manchester - Monday, August 12, 2002, at 6 p.m. in the Delaware County (Fairgrounds) Community Center, 200 East Acres Street, Manchester.
- Madrid - Wednesday, August 14, 2002, at 5 p.m. in the Madrid Community Room, 303 South Water Street, Madrid.

These hearings are for the purpose of receiving general comments, not specific service complaints (which should be addressed using the procedures of 199 IAC 6.2, instead).

The consumer comment hearings will be recorded and the transcript shall become a part of the permanent record in this proceeding. Representatives of Iowa Telecom shall be present at each hearing to explain, in a concise manner, the pertinent points of the company's proposal and to respond to any questions directed to the company. Individuals who wish to testify at the hearing need not preregister, but they may be asked to sign up at the time of the hearing. The Board members or presiding staff members may limit the length of testimony if a large number of persons wish to testify, in order that everyone may have a chance to be heard.

On June 14, 2002, the Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities (IAMU) filed a petition to intervene in this docket, alleging an interest in the pricing flexibility proposal. IAMU requests intervention with full rights of a party to the proceeding.

No objection or other response to the IAMU petition has been filed. The petition to intervene will be granted.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. Pursuant to the provisions of 199 IAC 7.7(16) (2002), consumer comment hearings shall be held in this docket at the following dates, times, and locations, as described in the body of this order:

a. Newton - Tuesday, July 23, 2002, at 5 p.m. in the DMACC Newton Conference Center Auditorium, 600 North Second Avenue West, Newton.

b. Mt. Pleasant - Thursday, July 25, 2002, at 5 p.m. in the Midwest Old Threshers Theater Museum, 405 East Threshers Road, Mt. Pleasant.

c. Emmetsburg - Tuesday, August 6, 2002, at 12 noon in the Iowa Lakes Community College Auditorium, 3200 College Drive, Emmetsburg.

d. Logan - Thursday, August 8, 2002, at 5 p.m. in the Logan Community Center, 108 West Fourth Street, Logan.

e. Manchester - Monday, August 12, 2002, at 6 p.m. in the Delaware County (Fairgrounds) Community Center, 200 East Acres Street, Manchester.

f. Madrid – Wednesday, August 14, 2002, at 5 p.m. in the Madrid Community Room, 303 South Water Street, Madrid.

2. The petition to intervene filed in this docket on June 14, 2002, by the Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities is granted.

UTILITIES BOARD

/s/ Diane Munns

/s/ Mark O. Lambert

ATTEST:

/s/ Judi K. Cooper
Executive Secretary

/s/ Elliott Smith

Dated at Des Moines, Iowa, this 5th day of July, 2002.